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For Immediate Release

## **DeshaForward e-Community Committee Update**

**McGehee, AR. (November 13, 2008)** - The DeshaForward e-Communities Committee held its second meeting November 13. The committee formalized its mission statement which is *"To prepare a plan to identify, analyze and implement information technology for all citizens of Desha County using and developing the resources of the e-Community Committee, the DeshaForward Steering Committee and all other interested stakeholders."*

Marketing and informational plans were discussed and will be implemented immediately. The Committee is moving with plans to conduct Focus Group Survey interviews covering Healthcare, Education and Economic Development. Work has also begun on the county-wide comprehensive assessment covering 1) Internet usage, 2) Internet Access, and 3) Subscription Rates. The next meeting will be held via teleconference on November 24.

*DeshaForward* is a strategic planning project that was initiated earlier this year by its citizens to create a Comprehensive Community and Economic Development Plan for Desha County. In developing this strategic plan, the *DeshaForward* Steering Committee is creating several sub-committees to address priority issues in Desha County. At this time, the e-Community Committee has been created to address high-speed internet access, or broadband, in Desha County.

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For more updates or information about the DeshaForward e-Community program, contact Lynn Bliss at (870) 877-3202. You can also find additional information at [www.DeshaForward.org](http://www.DeshaForward.org) or [www.Connect-Arkansas.org](http://www.Connect-Arkansas.org).